

City of San Mateo

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ANNEX

January 16, 2007

Introduction

The City of San Mateo is 14 square miles in size and has two major freeways, one freeway transverses the city and the other borders it. A heavy rail system passes along the El Camino Real corridor through the City of San Mateo. The City of San Mateo is a moderately-sized city in San Mateo County, California. The City has a population of 92,482 people, based on the 2000 census. Last year, the City's budget was \$122,000,000. The City employs 850 people. The City provides local police and fire services.

The Planning Process

This process of preparing this plan was familiar to the City of San Mateo. The City has a Safety Element to its General Plan last updated in 2003 that includes a discussion of fire, earthquake, flooding, and landslide hazards. In addition, the City routinely enforces the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements (which, since 1988, have required mitigation for identified natural hazards). The City's effort has focused on building on these pre-existing programs and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities as a way identify and prioritize new program and initiatives to address these risks through mitigation.

Many of the activities conducted by the City were fed into the planning process for the multi-jurisdictional plan. The City participated in various ABAG workshops and meetings, including the general "kick-off" meeting and the soft-story charrette. In addition, the City has provided written and oral comments on the multi-jurisdictional plan. Finally, the City provided information on facilities that are viewed as "critical" to ABAG.

Key City staff have met and collaborated on several occasions to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies appropriate for the City. At the first kickoff meeting, a project lead, general priorities and appropriate City Departments and technical staff leads were identified. Following this meeting, the City project lead worked closely with identified technical staff to develop the first comprehensive draft mitigation strategies document. The second phase of meetings included individual sessions with the key department heads to review and validate the comprehensive draft mitigation strategies document. Once all the key Department Head reviews were complete, one final meeting between the City Manager and all Department Heads was conducted to finalize the Draft document. Staff involved in the plan development include the Deputy City Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Community Development Director, Public Works Director, Building Official, Chief of Planning, Fire Battalion Chief, Fire Marshall, Facilities Manager, Public Works Maintenance Manager. The City provided the opportunity for the public to comment on the DRAFT mitigation strategies prepared by City staff at the City Council meeting on January 16, 2007. The resolution adopting the plan and strategies was on the City Council agenda for January 16, 2007. The mitigation strategies will become an implementation appendix to this Safety Element.

Hazard and Risk Assessment

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and four related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought). The City of San Mateo may be impacted by shaking, earthquake induced landslides, liquefaction, tsunamis, flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought; and will be impacted by faulting as the San Andreas Fault Zone is immediately adjacent to the City of San Mateo.

The City has independently undertaken a number of general hazard mapping activities since the first Safety Element was prepared by the City. These hazard maps are a good general reference document; however, all of these maps are less detailed and are not as current as those hazard maps compiled and published on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

The City examined the hazard exposure of City urban land based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 7,412 urban acres of urban land in the City;

- ◆ No acres of urban land are in an Alquist-Priolo Fault Rupture Study Zone
- ◆ 7,211 acres are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ At the present a hazard map for earthquake induced landslides is in the process of being developed with the California Geological Survey.
- ◆ 3,782 acres are in the areas of moderate, high or very high liquefaction susceptibility.
- ◆ 34 acres are in the 100-year flood plain.
- ◆ 4,162 acres are subject to dam inundation.
- ◆ 100 acres are in areas of existing landslides.
- ◆ 33 acres are subject to high and very high wildfire threat.
- ◆ All 7,412 acres are subject to drought.

The City also examined the hazard exposure of infrastructure based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 200 miles of roadway in the City,

- ◆ No miles of roads are in an Alquist-Priolo Fault Rupture Study Zone
- ◆ 52 miles of roads are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ No miles of roads are in an area where further studies are required of new development by the seismic Hazard Mapping Program of the California Geological Survey due to earthquake-induced landslides;
- ◆ 45 miles of roadway are in the 100-year flood plain
- ◆ 1850 miles of roadway are in an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 4/10's miles of roadway are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ 28 miles of roadway are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 2/10's miles of roadway are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat;
- ◆ Drought is not a concern for transportation.

Finally, the City examined the hazard exposure of critical health care facilities, schools, and city-owned buildings based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickcrit.html>. Of the 16 critical health facilities in the City, 28 schools, and 24 city-owned critical facilities in the City,

- ◆ No critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities are in an Alquist-Priolo Fault Rupture Study Zone;
- ◆ All 16 health care, 28 schools, and 23 city-owned critical facilities are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ No critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities are in an area where further studies are required of new development by the Seismic Hazard Mapping Program of the California Geological Survey due to liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 8 health care, 14 schools, and 15 city-owned critical facilities are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility mapped by the U.S. Geological Survey;
- ◆ No critical facilities or schools are in the 100-year flood plain.;
- ◆ 12 health care, 15 schools, and 19 city-owned critical facilities are in an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ No critical facilities are in areas of existing landslides; and;
- ◆ While no critical facilities are subject to high, very high or extreme wildfire threat, 2 health care, 6 schools and 13 city-owned critical facilities are in wildland urban interface threat areas.

In spite of the areas of the City located in flood-prone areas, there are no repetitive loss properties in the City based on the information at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickflood.html>.

The City plans to work with ABAG during 2005 to improve the risk assessment information being compiled by ABAG by providing information on unreinforced masonry buildings located in the City.

As these impacts are not fully developed, the City has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts. The conclusion is that earthquakes (particularly shaking), liquefaction, and flooding are significant while landslides, tsunamis, and drought are less important.

Mitigation Activities and Priorities

As a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, City of San Mateo staff helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The list was discussed at a meeting of the Community Development Director, Public Works Director, Fire Chief, and Building Official, on September 21, 2005. At the meeting, all of the mitigation strategies were reviewed and a plan was defined on the process to use to develop the Mitigation Plan as well as the approach to establish priorities. The tentative decision on priority was made based on a variety of criteria, not simply on an economic cost-benefit analysis. These criteria include being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage.

Over time, we are committed to developing better hazard and risk information to use in making those trade-offs. We are not trying to create a disaster-proof region, but a disaster-resistant one. In addition, several of the strategies are existing City programs.

These draft priorities were submitted to a team consisting of the City Manager and all of the Department Heads for review. The draft priorities were then provided to the City Council on January 16, 2007. The public was provided with an opportunity to comment on the DRAFT priorities. The final strategies (as shown in the attached Table) will become an *Implementation Appendix* to the City's *Safety Element*.

The City Planning Department will review and update this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) every five years and/or as needed; with the City's General Plan to assist in identifying high priority mitigation activities and/or program areas worthy of further study that will be funded and implemented through the annual capital improvement and operating budget process and the annual City work program process.

In addition, the City has examined the hazard exposure information to City-owned critical facilities supplied by ABAG. The City has determined that the combination of construction type, age, and shaking exposure for the following City facilities is significant; therefore, the City intends to make application for Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants to reduce these hazards at the following identified facilities:

- ◆ Main Police Station and Emergency Operations Center; Estimated total project cost \$35 Million - \$40 Million
- ◆ Fire Station #23; Estimated total project cost \$3 Million - \$5 Million
- ◆ Fire Station #24; Estimated total project cost \$3 Million - \$5 Million
- ◆ Fire Station #25; Estimated total project cost \$3 Million - \$5 Million
- ◆ Fire Station #27; Estimated total project cost \$3 Million - \$5 Million

The Plan Update Process

The City of San Mateo is committed to reviewing and updating this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The designated Hazard Mitigation project manager will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the City again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the San Mateo County Sheriff's Area Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. Counties should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The Plan Maintenance and Update Process

The City's designated Hazard Mitigation project manager will ensure that *monitoring* of this Annex will occur. The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis. However, the major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers will be used. Finally, the Annex will be a discussion item on the agenda of the meeting of City department heads at least once a year in April. At that meeting, the department heads will focus on *evaluating* the Annex in light of technological and political changes during the past year or other significant events. This group will be responsible for determining if the plan should be updated.

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The *public* will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated and as appropriate during the monitoring and evaluation process. Prior to adoption of updates, the City will provide the opportunity for the public to comment on the updates. A public notice will be posted prior to the meeting to announce the comment period and meeting logistics.